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DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
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DIRECT EDITION
$2.99 US $3.75 CAN

Attorney Matt Murdock is blind, but his other four senses function with superhuman sharpness to form a radar ability. With amazing fighting skills, he stalks the streets at night in relentless pursuit of justice as

Daredevil, the Man Without Fear!

Previously in Daredevil...

It's been a difficult time for the Man Without Fear.

After being "outed" by the press as the masked hero Daredevil, Matt Murdock was arrested and incarcerated in Ryker's Island in an elaborate plot orchestrated by an unseen villain. But Matt escaped and set out across Europe to clear his name, meeting a Mafia heiress named Lily Lucca along the way. Although Lily's perfume could make any man obsessed with her, Matt fought through her deceptions and found the person responsible for his downfall: Vanessa Fisk, the wife of his arch-nemesis, Wilson Fisk -- a.k.a. the Kingpin.

Now, Matt Murdock has returned to Hell's Kitchen. As Daredevil, he discovers that the streets are bloodier and more violent than ever -- someone is trying to take the Kingpin's place.

The opening salvo in the unknown villain's attack on Daredevil involves Matt's old friend and former enemy, Melvin Potter -- the Gladiator. The once-reformed supervillain committed several brutal murders in prison, with apparently no recollection of the crimes. Matt hopes Melvin is being set up, but after taking the case as his attorney and interviewing him, Matt realizes Melvin is guilty and lying about his innocence...although somebody might be controlling his killing sprees. And when somebody stages an elaborate and violent breakout to free Melvin, Matt fears he's on the right track.

To The Devil, His Due

Part Three of Five

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FOUR NIGHTS AGO.
BAR & LOUNGE
WHATTAYA MEAN, YOU'RE BUYING HER NEXT DRINK?
JUST WHAT I SAID, BARRY. YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE, NOW BACK OFF.
LIKE YOU'RE THE MAN, NOW? YOU?
BOYS, BOYS... PLEASE...
...IT'S EARLY STILL, AND THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME FOR BOTH OF YOU TO BUY ME A ROUND.
I PROMISE.
SEE? YOU'RE MAKING US BOTH LOOK LIKE ASSES, BARRY.
AND IN FRONT OF LILY HERE.
DO NOT TALK TO ME LIKE THAT.
OH, NOW YOU'RE A TOUGH GUY?
I WILL KICK YOU IN THE @#%S.
CONVENIENTLY, I DON'T HAVE ONE OF THOSE.
HEY BOYS, SERIOUSLY... JUST CALM DOWN.
WHAT IS THAT PERFUME YOU'RE WEARING?
IT'S GOT A HINT OF SOMETHING... LIKE CINNAMON... BUT...NOT.
BUT IT REMINDS ME OF THIS CLUB WE USED TO GO TO IN HIGH SCHOOL, TOO...
REALLY FAMILIAR, BUT IT'S...IT'S JUST OUT OF REACH, YOU KNOW? WHAT IS THAT?
I'M NOT WEARING ANY PERFUME.

MOTHER-#@$%&*!
HOW'D YOU LIKE THAT?!
UK--
THAT TOUGH ENOUGH FOR YOU?!
YOU SON OF A BITCH...
NOW THEN...
...WHERE WERE WE?

WHEEEOOOO
WHEEEOOOOO
BAR & LOUNGE
BAR & LOUNGE

NOW.
...AND THAT'S JUST THE LATEST--THE WORST OF IT, SO FAR, BUT...
DON'T YOU SEE WHY YOU HAVE TO HELP ME?
NOT EXACTLY.

PEOPLE ARE GETTING HURT, BECAUSE OF ME.

I WOULD THINK YOU'D BE USED TO THAT, LILY.
STOP IT. I'M NOT A MONSTER.
THAT'S JUST... IT WAS THE WORLD I WAS RAISED IN.

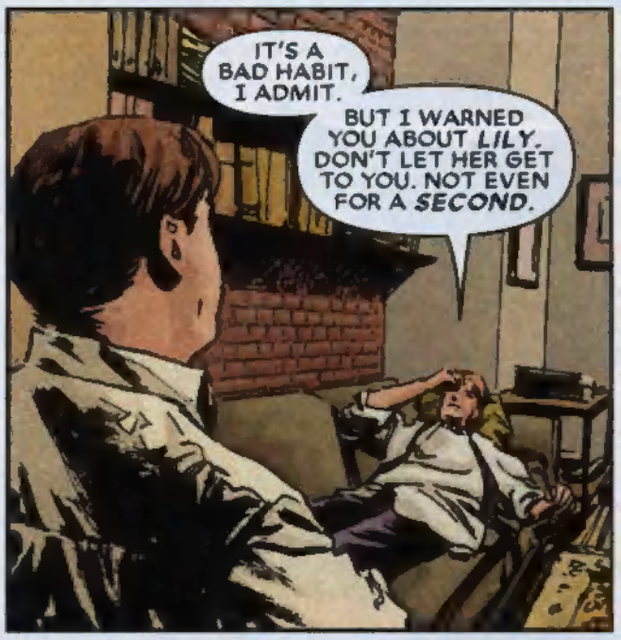
BUT I STOPPED USING THE PERFUME VANESSA FISK GAVE ME MONTHS AGO...
AND IT'S NOT GOING AWAY, WHATEVER IT IS THAT IT DOES TO MEN.
IT'S A NIGHTMARE.

OKAY. BUT WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT?

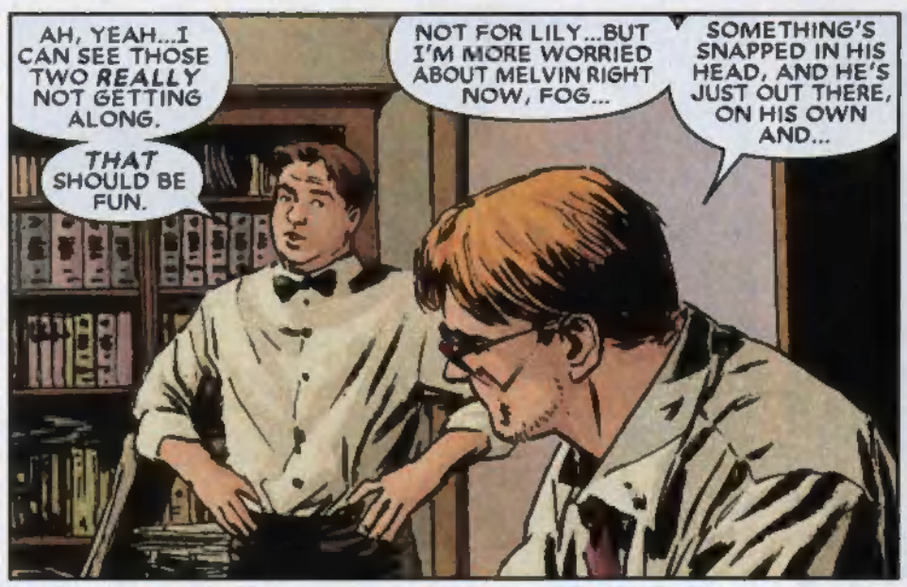
MRS. FISK SAID ONE OF *YOUR* ENEMIES WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS *CREATION*...
SO I'M HOPING YOU CAN FIND *WHOEVER* THAT IS...SO THEY CAN MAKE THIS STOP.
GIVE ME *ONE REASON* I SHOULD TRUST YOU.
I...I DON'T...
I DON'T KNOW HOW I COULD DO THAT. YOU HAVE NO REASON TO...
...BUT YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE, MATTHEW.
Matthew. Like Karen used to call me sometimes, when it was important.
Lily's scent gives off some kind of pheromone that makes men think of their fondest memories.
To me, she has Karen Page's scent, and it takes everything I've got to block that out.
And still, I find myself agreeing to help her...
OKAY, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE ME. I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR *INVESTIGATOR*, DAKOTA NORTH.
SHE'S GOOD. IF THERE'S SOMETHING TO FIND, *SHE'LL* FIND IT.
LEAVE YOUR DETAILS WITH THE RECEPTIONIST, AND I'LL SET UP A MEETING FOR TOMORROW.
THANK YOU, MATT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
THERE'S NOTHING *TO* SAY, LILY. JUST DON'T MESS THIS UP.

MATT?
YEAH?

SO...UH, THAT WAS THE GIRL YOU MET IN EUROPE?
YOU EVER MEET ANY WOMEN WHO AREN'T BEAUTIFUL?


IT'S A BAD HABIT, I ADMIT.
BUT I WARNED YOU ABOUT LILY. DON'T LET HER GET TO YOU. NOT EVEN FOR A SECOND.

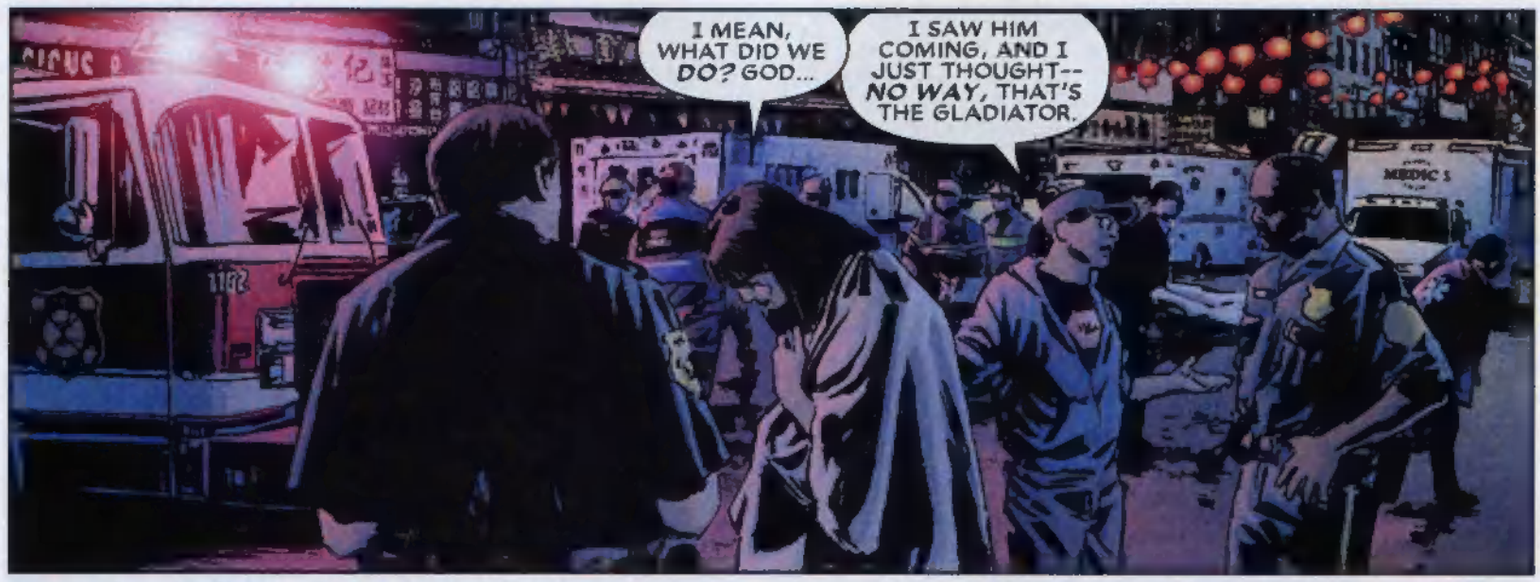
BETTER NOT LEAVE ME ALONE WITH HER, JUST IN CASE.
I'M ONLY HUMAN, Y'KNOW.
I'M LEAVING HER IN DAKOTA'S HANDS. HER MOJO DOESN'T WORK ON OTHER WOMEN.


AH, YEAH...I CAN SEE THOSE TWO REALLY NOT GETTING ALONG.
THAT SHOULD BE FUN.
NOT FOR LILY...BUT I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT MELVIN RIGHT NOW, FOG...
SOMETHING'S SNAPPED IN HIS HEAD, AND HE'S JUST OUT THERE, ON HIS OWN AND...

"BAD THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN."

THAT NIGHT.
I DON'T LIKE THIS.
I DON'T EVEN LIKE THIS ONE SINGLE IOTA.
IN FACT, I'M BEGINNING TO BE FILLED WITH DREAD...
...DO YOU GET THAT, MERV? DREAD.
TURK SHOULD'VE GIVEN US MORE DETAILS.
PARK THE CAR. WAIT FOR A MAN.
WHAT MAN? IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?
TURK'S OUR BOSS, CHICO. HE DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN.
I KNOW, BUT WHATEVER HAPPENED TO COMMON COURTESY AMONG PROFESSIONALS?
I MEAN--I MEAN, FOR ALL WE KNOW, HE'S SENDING US TO PICK UP TED BUNDY OR THE FREAKIN' SON OF SAM.
AREN'T THEY DEAD?
SURE, BUT YOU KNOW... YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
I MEAN, IT COULD BE SOME PSYCHO.
IT IS.
SEE? THAT'S WHAT I'M--
SHUT UP, CHICO. PLEASE.
NOW, DRIVE.

Whatever is going on with Melvin Potter, it's worse than I could have imagined.
He doesn't hide somewhere, scared out of his mind, like I expect him to.
Instead, the Gladiator goes on a rampage.
A killing spree unlike anything in his history.
He hits a busy marketplace in Chinatown, and I get there too late.
Just in time to hide in the shadows and listen to the survivors...
--AND THEN PEOPLE WERE JUST SCREAMING... AND TOM FELL OVER, WITH THIS BLADE STUCK IN HIM.
MOON HOUSE
POLICE
"THEN EVERYONE WAS TRYING TO GET AWAY, AND THIS--THIS MONSTER...HE WAS JUST CUTTING THEM DOWN."


I MEAN, WHAT DID WE DO? GOD...
I SAW HIM COMING, AND I JUST THOUGHT-- NO WAY, THAT'S THE GLADIATOR.
MEDIC 5

"I EXPECTED TO SEE SPIDER-MAN OR DAREDEVIL SHOW UP...BUT HE WAS JUST...HE WAS HERE FOR US. FOR REGULAR PEOPLE.

"HE DIDN'T EVEN SAY ANYTHING. JUST KILLED... AND THEN WALKED AWAY.
"I THOUGHT THOSE KIND ALWAYS TALKED...? SHOUTED STUFF. THIS WAS JUST...A MASSACRE."

Melvin struck outside the Kitchen. Wanted first blood without me interfering.

Not from Gus.
The crime scene doesn't feel staged.
It's clear to me that no one else has been here for weeks.
He really did kill himself.
SO, WHO WERE YOU WORKING FOR, GUS?
I guess that's another question for Dakota to answer.
She can dig through his finances while I try to track down Melvin and put a stop to this insanity.
But first, I have to go tell Becky that her old friend walked both into trap.
And that he paid for it with his life.

THE NEXT DAY.
BUT BECKY'S OKAY?
SHE'S BLAMING HERSELF, BUT SHE'S STRONG.
HOW ABOUT YOU? YOU'RE BLAMING YOURSELF, TOO, I ASSUME...
NO. I'VE LEARNED TO BLAME THE BAD GUYS FOR THEIR ACTIONS.
WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE MELVIN POTTER?
I DON'T KNOW. CONCENTRATE HIS LAWYER, AND LET'S SEE WHAT WE FIND.
ANYWAY, LILY LUCCA'S ABOUT TO WALK IN.
SORRY FOR KEEPING YOU WAITING...I HAD A HELL OF A TIME WITH THE CAB-DRIVER.
THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT, MS. LUCCA.
I'M DAKOTA NORTH, PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
WHY DON'T YOU TWO ORDER, THEN YOU CAN EXPLAIN YOUR PROBLEM TO DAKOTA.
AREN'T YOU HAVING ANYTHING?
I'VE GOT TO MEET MY WIFE FOR DINNER IN AN HOUR.
OH...I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A WIFE.
NOW YOU DO.

But by the time I meet Milla, I know I should have [redacted]led. I have too much else on my mind, and she knows it.
Her reaction is more extreme than I expect, though...
YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST TURNED HER AWAY! THE WOMAN TRIED TO SET YOU UP!
MILLA...KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN...
ANYWAY, IT'S FINE. I'M NOT DEALING WITH LILY PERSONALLY.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE DEALING WITH HER AT ALL. WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU, MATT?
CAN YOU NEVER SAY NO TO ANYONE?
OF COURSE I CAN. DON'T BE SO HYPERBOLIC.
THE ONLY REASON I AGREED TO INTRODUCE HER TO DAKOTA [redacted] BECAUSE HER PROBLEM IS HURTING OTHER PEOPLE...INNOCENT PEOPLE.
PROMISE ME YOU WON'T SEE HER AGAIN.
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

YOU TOLD ME WHAT SHE DOES TO MEN... BUT YOU NEVER SAID WHAT SHE DOES TO YOU.
TO ME?
SHE DOESN'T... SHE DOESN'T DO ANYTHING TO [redacted]. NOT ANYMORE.
MATTHEW, I MAY NOT HAVE YOUR ENHANCED SENSES, BUT I KNOW WHEN MY HUSBAND IS LYING TO ME.
I'd think of [redacted] response, or [redacted]ven tell her the truth, [redacted]d pray she doesn't run away again...
I'M SORRY, WOULD YOU LIKE ANOTHER MOMENT? [redacted] ARE YOU READY TO--
...but then the whole night goes straight to hell instead.
MILLA-- GET DOWN!
UTT--
So distracted, I only heard him coming a moment before my radar felt his blade spinning through the air.

MURDOCK!!
Guess I won't have to hunt him down, after all.
MILLA, I'M GOING TO DISTRACT HIM, AND WHEN I DO, YOU RUN.
BUT- BUT--
THE DOOR IS OPEN, JUST STRAIGHT THAT WAY. FOLLOW MY HAND.
WHERE ARE YOU, MURDOCK?! HIDING?
ONCE YOU GET OUT, DON'T STOP UNTIL YOU GET HOME.
NO...I CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU...
I'LL BE FINE, BUT I NEED YOU FAR AWAY SO I CAN CONCENTRATE. NOW...

...RUN!!
KRAK
UNHH--

AHH!

NO MORE HIDING, HUNH?!
NOW YOU WANNA FIGHT?!

Customers have all fled, but...
...it's only a matter of moments before the police or someone with a camera gets here.

I'd rather not be seen doing this at all right now...
...but Matt Murdock definitely can't be.
UFF--
KRAK!
WUFF!
MATT!

MILLA-- RUN!
WHUDD
UHH!
He's so strong.
Been so long since I actually fought him in his armor...
...that I've forgotten how hard he can hit when he wants to.
SMACK
AHH!
Or how sharp his blades can be.
Still, something's off about Melvin. He hesitates...
YAAAEEEHHH--

WHAM
UK--
WHAT IS IT, MELVIN?
STARTING TO WAKE UP IN THERE?
STARTING TO REALIZE YOU'VE BEEN TURNED BACK INTO A MONSTER?
÷COFF-COFF÷---÷HACK÷!
SHUT UP!
WHO DID THIS, MELVIN? WHO DID THIS TO YOU?
I CAN GET YOU HELP!
HELP? LIKE YOU WERE GONNA HELP ME BACK INTO MY PRISON CELL?
OR INTO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR?!
I'VE HAD TOO MUCH OF YOUR HELP, MATT!
KRRAK
UHN!
No. Bleeding is slowing my reflexes.

Let him get in too close.
HELP YOURSELF!
WHUDD
Underestimated his rage.
WHAM
KRAK
HEAR THAT, MATT?
THAT'S YOUR NEW BEST FRIENDS ON THE WAY...THE POLICE.
MELVIN...
KRAK
...UHHH...